LaVerendrye Provincial Park

Preliminary Management Plan

Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LaVerendrye Provincial Waterway Park was selected for Park status in recognition of its recreational and tourism potential and the significant cultural and natural resources which are associated with the area..

Located on the international boundary between Canada and the U.S.A. and adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (to the south), LaVerendrye extends between Quetico Provincial Park (to the west), and Middle Falls Provincial Park (to the east). While the Park area lies in the midst of the premiere wilderness canoeing country of North America, it is not intended that the Park, based on the Pigeon River waterway, become an extension of these wilderness areas. Rather, it is intended to provide a Waterway Park setting which will serve as a valuable link and interface between the opportunities offered on Crown land and those areas managed for wilderness recreation.

The planning for the management of LaVerendrye has been a task which has presented a number of challenges. Historically it has been recognized as a major waterway that carried early explorers to the west and later, fur traders to the east. Today the area is heavily used for recreational purposes by hunters, fishermen, canoeists, cottagers and for business by local tourist operators, and by the timber and mining industries. These users have differing demands on the resources of the area and seek differing and sometimes conflicting management policies in order to pursue their activities to their greatest satisfaction. In addition, LaVerendrye's location along the international boundary between Canada and the United States, requires the development of management policies with an appreciation of implications to both country's adjacent land uses.

Since 1970, the area of LaVerendrye Provincial Park has been managed under the terms of the Management Guidelines for the International Boundary Waters (Ontario Department of Lands and Forests 1970). This plan will supercede and take precedence over these Guidelines for the area of the Park.

The management policies contained in this plan will provide direction in the orderly development of the park and guide the management of the park over the next 20 years.

PARK POLICIES

2.1 CLASSIFICATION

LaVerendrye Provincial Park is classified as a Waterway Park. The Ontario Provincial Parks Policy, approved in 1978, established the waterway class of park as one of six classes in the Provincial Parks system. Ontario Provincial Parks Policy gives this definition for waterway parks:

> Waterway Parks incorporate outstanding recreational water routes with representative natural features and historical resources to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences.

The LaVerendrye area was selected for Waterway Provincial Park status for a variety of reasons which range from its rich history of travel by explorers and fur traders to its diverse present day use by hunters, fishermen, canoeists, motorboaters, cottagers and tourist operators. Its recreational potential is enhanced by its location on the international boundary between Canada and the United States, adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (B.W.C.A.) and Quetico Provincial Park, both areas being well known for their wilderness recreation opportunities.

2.2 PARK GOAL

The goal for LaVerendrye Provincial Park is to protect its provincially and nationally significant historical resources and natural features and to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences for Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors.

2.3 PARK OBJECTIVES

There are four established objectives of the Provincial Parks system; protection, recreation, heritage appreciation and tourism. The waterway class of park contributes to the achievement of each of these objectives.

LaVerendrye Provincial Park accomodates these objectives as follows;

Protection Objective

To protect the nationally and provincially significant waterway environment of LaVerendrye Provincial Park, incorporating natural, cultural and recreational features.

The LaVerendrye Waterway has experienced a vast amount of use through time from its prehistoric use, early historical use by explorers and fur traders to its present day use by recreationists such as motorboaters and canoeists. Throughout this time, the area has been rich in natural resources and exhibits a variety of significant geological, biological and cultural resources.

The management of LaVerendrye Provincial Park will provide continuity and form a link between Quetico Provincial Park in the west and Middle Falls Provincial Park on Lake Superior, in the east. LaVerendrye's major recreational, cultural and natural resources will be safeguarded through appropriate zoning and management policies.

The protection of the Waterway environment is the prime objective which has priority over all others. The protection of the Waterway's natural quality is vital to the achievement of the other Park objectives. Policies contained in this plan will insure the achievement of this objective.

Recreation Objective

To provide day use opportunities, back country travel and camping opportunities in the outstanding setting of LaVerendrye Provincial Park.

LaVerendrye Provincial Park will provide a variety of recreation opportunities, to blend wilderness recreation with Crown land recreation.

A recreation management program will be established, to optimize the opportunities for recreation and minimize impacts on the environment and on adjacent private property. An emphasis of the program will be to disperse recreation activities throughout the Park. This will be achieved through the development of appropriately spaced access areas throughout the length of the Park. While the concentration of recreational activity will be controlled through the designation of campsites and the imposition of a party size limit, higher concentrations will be allowed in designated access and development zones.

Heritage Appreciation Objective

To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage of LaVerendrye Provincial Park through unstructured individual exploration and/or interpretation and education of the character and significance of LaVerendrye Provincial Park.

LaVerendrye Provincial Park provides the opportunity to protect and interpret one of the most important early exploration and fur trade routes in Canada's history, as well as its wealth of earth and life science features.

Research to identify and inventory the natural and cultural resources of the Park will be encouraged. Management practices will be developed to ensure that all identified heritage resources are protected.

An interpretive program will be developed to provide park visitors with a greater appreciation for and understanding of the area's natural and cultural resources.

Tourism Objective

To complement and strengthen the LaVerendrye area tourist industry, and encourage residents of and visitors to Ontario to discover and experience the LaVerendrye area.

LaVerendrye Provincial Park will provide its users a greater opportunity to access and utilize the tourism and recreational resources of the area.

Development within the Park will take into consideration existing and planned tourism development in the area. Emphasis will be placed on Park development which will complement and strengthen the tourism industry. This is discussed later in the plan.

The protection of the landscape and natural resources of the river will ensure that tourists continue to enjoy a high quality outdoor environment.

2.4 BOUNDARY

LaVerendrye Provincial Park extends from Quetico Provincial Park in the west along the lakes and streams of the Pigeon River corridor to Middle Falls Provincial Park in the east. These two Parks provide the outermost boundaries for LaVerendrye Park. LaVerendrye Provincial Park's southern boundary is the

international border between Ontario-Canada and Minnesota-U.S.A. (See Boundary and Zoning Map at back of text.)

The northern boundary that has been established is 200 metres in from the shore along the majority of the waterway. However, the boundary is reduced to 100 metres where this distance is adequate to maintain park values, and increased in other areas to maintain a skyline view and/or incorporate significant resource features.

The areas of boundary reduction are on the north shore of Saganaga Lake for approximately ten kilometres, between Rove and Watap Lakes for approximately 3 kilometres, and two segments on the Pigeon River on either side of the Pigeon River Clay Plain, totalling approximately 12 kilometres. These reductions to 100 metres still maintain a skyline view, and releases land which will serve no useful purpose to the park for other resource uses.

The areas where the boundary has been extended beyond 200 metres are:

- Southeast shore of North Lake around Sac Bay - skyline view.
- Section of north shore of North Lake, east side of Bridge Bay - geological feature - Gunflint Formation.
- Northeast shore of the Arrow River between Rose and Rove Lakes - landform feature - glacial moraine.
- Section of north shore between Watap and Mountain Lakes - skyline view.
- Northeast shore of east end of Mountain Lake to the west end of Moose Lake - skyline view.
- South shore of South Fowl Lake extending along the Pigeon River for 2 km - incorporate historic portage in park.

The Park boundary will also include the Pigeon River Clay Plain.

All private land is excluded from LaVerendrye Provincial Park.

The westernmost boundary of the Park, on Saganaga Lake, coincides with the boundary of Quetico Provincial Park. This boundary crosses the western end of Saganaga Lake. Recognizing that differing use controls exist in each Park, it might be desirable to re-align the boundary to incorporate Saganaga Lake in its entirety within LaVerendrye Provincial Park.

The feasibility of such a boundary re-alignment will be investigated. If feasible, appropriate adjustments will be made. A public review of the Quetico Management Plan would take place prior to implementing any such adjustments.

2.5 PARK ZONING

Five types of zones have been designated to guide the management of LaVerendrye Provincial Park. These are: one development zone, four access zones, one natural environment zone, one wilderness zone, and six nature reserve zones. Thus, through zoning, the Park's land and water base is allocated to its most appropriate uses in order that the Park's overriding goal is achieved and the integrity of its classification is maintained. Policies relating specific resource management and user activities to zones are outlined in the following sections.

2.5.1 Natural Environment Zone

The majority of the Park area is included in the natural environment zone. The priority for this zone will be recreation management and site protection.

This zone comprises the major portion of the Park, and extends throughout most of its length. Development will be limited to backcountry campsites, portages, and possibly unmanned interpretive stations. The majority of water area within the Park is in this zone.

If the Park boundary is re-aligned to incorporate all of Saganaga Lake, the expanded area will be in this zone.

Resource uses permitted:

- trapping
- fuelwood cutting by permit (Saganaga and Gunflint Lakes only)
- commercial bait fishing

Recreational uses permitted:

- picnicking
- hiking/backpacking
- canoeing/kayaking
- sailing

- cross-country skiing
- snowshoeing
- designated backcountry camping
- hunting
- swimming
- scuba and skin diving
- heritage/historical appreciation
- nature appreciation
- motorboating
- sport fishing
- snowmobiling

Development permitted:

- designated backcountry campsites
- trails
- portages
- necessary signs for route identification
- minimal interpretive facilities
- entry control facilities (Gunflint Lake only, and Cache Bay of Saganaga Lake if incorporated into LaVerendrye Provincial Park)

2.5.2 NATURE RESERVE ZONES

LaVerendrye Provincial Park contains six nature reserve zones. These are established to protect significant earth or life science features which require the protection afforded by this zone designation.

A maximum of protection will be provided, with no development and minimal human interference permitted.

Any research in these zones is subject to prior approval by M.N.R. and the on-going monitoring of the program by the M.N.R.

Resource uses permitted:

- trapping
- mineral exploration (permitted only in zone 6 and only under conditions set out in exploratory licence of occupation)

Recreational uses permitted:

- heritage/historical appreciation
- nature appreciation
- hunting (zones 1-5 only)

Development permitted:

- informational and regulatory signs
- existing portage trails

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

At the time of writing this preliminary plan, earth and life science research is ongoing, with particular emphasis on detailed inventories in Nature Reserve zones 1-5. The designation of Nature Reserve zones 1-5 is based upon reconnaissance surveys which revealed the suspected occurrence of significant earth and/or life science features in those locations.

It is proposed that upon completion of the present inventory and research (October 1986) the designation of Nature Reserve zones 1-5 be re-evaluated. Should the occurrence of the suspected features be confirmed (or other significant features found) in these zones, we propose to retain the zone designation and associated policies contained herein for such zones, in the final Management Plan. If significant features are found to be absent in any zone(s), we propose to drop the Nature Reserve zone designation for such area(s) and incorporate it (them) into the Natural Environment zone.

Additionally, if present research reveals the need or desirability to establish other Nature Reserve zones, we propose that such be considered prior to preparation of the final Management Plan. If any additional Nature Reserve zones are considered, we will provide all participants with details and an opportunity to comment.

The Pigeon River Clay Plain (Nature Reserve zone 6) has well documented evidence that supports its Nature Reserve designation, and no re-evaluation of its status is proposed.

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2.5.2.1 Nature Reserve Zone 1

Nature Reserve zone 1 is located on the Northeast side of the Arrow River between Rose Lake and Rove Lake. This zone has been established because it contains habitat conditions that are expected to support rare or unusual plant species. In particular the area of Long Portage between Rose and Rove Lakes has been regarded as having botanical interest.

2.5.2.2. Nature Reserve Zone 2

Nature Reserve zone 2 is located on the east side of the bay at the east end of Mountain Lake and extends along the Pigeon River to the Northwest end of Moose Lake. This zone also incorporates Fan, and Vaseux Lake, (also referred to as the Lily Lakes). Within this zone are dry, sun-exposed southwestern facing cliffs. These ridge tops and the talus slope-cliff fall juncture provide unique environments and habitats which are expected to harbour rare and unusual plant species. Similarily, the area of the Lesser Cherry Portage between Mountain and Lily Lakes is expected to harbour other rare and unusual plant species.

2.5.2.3 Nature Reserve Zone 3

Nature Reserve zone 3 is located on the south shore of the east bay of North Fowl Lake. This zone encompasses moist and shady conditions that are expected to support rare or unusual plant species.

2.5.2.4 Nature Reserve Zone 4

Nature Reserve zone 4 is located on the southeastern shore of South Fowl Lake and extends along the north shore of the Pigeon River for approximately two kilometres. Within this zone lies the Fowl portage between South Fowl Lake and the Pigeon River. It is along this portage and in particular, at the bottom (south) end which has proved to be floristically rich.

2.5.2.5 Nature Reserve Zone 5

Nature Reserve zone 5 is located on the north shore of the Pigeon River near the Cascades. This zone exhibits an occurrence of tree species in the understory with distinct southern affinities.

2.5.2.6 Nature Reserve Zone 6

Nature Reserve zone 6 is located north of the Pigeon River and east of South Fowl Lake. The area is commonly referred to as the Pigeon River Clay Plain.

The Thunder Bay District Land Use Guidelines (1983) recommended the Pigeon River Clay Plain for Provincial Park status, as a Nature Reserve class park. Since it is contiguous with LaVerendrye Provincial Park, it has been included in LaVerendrye as a nature reserve zone. The Nature Reserve zone designation will provide the same level and type of protection to the area as would its classification as a Nature Reserve Park.

The zone provides representation of a life science biophysiographic unit - lacustrine (lake deposited) clay plain with diabase dikes (ridges) and a variety of associated vegetation communities. Steep rock ridges around much of the perimeter of the zone provide good protection to the area and allow it to be self-buffering from outside influences.

2.5.3 Development Zone

The development zone of LaVerendrye Provincial Park is located at the south east end of Red Sucker Bay, Saganaga Lake.

The development zone of LaVerendrye provides for the establishment of commercial facilities.

Resource uses permitted:

- trapping

Recreational uses permitted:

- picnicking
- hiking
- heritage/historical appreciation
- nature appreciation
- snowmobiling
- snowshoeing
- cross-country skiing
- car camping

Development permitted:

- trails
- roads and utilities
- garbage collection facilities
- campgrounds
- commercial facilities
- parking facilities
- picnicking and sanitary facilities
- interpretive and directional signs
- other recreational developments as identified in a site plan
- facilities for Park administration, maintenance and entry control

2.5.4 Access Zones

LaVerendrye Provincial Park has four access zones. Within these access zones there is potential for future development of M.N.R. roads and recreational facilitier, as demand warrants. However, the present level of development and maintenance will remain until that time.

Resource uses permitted:

- trapping

Recreational uses permitted:

- picnicking
- hiking
- heritage/historical appreciation
- nature appreciation
- snowmobiling
- snowshoeing
- cross-country skiing
- hunting
- car camping

Development permitted:

- roads and utilities
- campgrounds
- parking facilities
- picnicking and sanitary facilities
- trails
- interpretive and directional signs
- other recreational developments as identified in a site plan
- facilities for Park administration, maintenance and entry control.

2.5.4.1 Access Zone 1

Access zone 1 is located on the most easterly bay of North Lake on the southeast shore. There is presently no road access or development of any form in this zone.

2.5.4.2. Access Zone 2

Access zone 2 is located on the north shore of Mountain Lake surrounding its most northernly bay. Presently, the development in this zone includes a forest access road, an access point and associated camping.

2.5.4.3 Access Zone 3

Access zone 3 is located on the north easterly shore of North Fowl Lake. Presently, the development in this zone includes a forest access road, an access point and associated camping.

2.5.4.4 Access Zone 4

Access zone 4 is located on the Pigeon River west of Nature Reserve zone 5 and adjacent to the Pigeon River Cascades. There is presently no road access or development of any form in this zone.

2.5.5 Wilderness Zone

LaVerendrye Provincial Park contains one wilderness zone which is located from Saganaga Falls to Magnetic Lake.

This Wilderness zone is located adjacent to the wilderness area of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of the United States. This area of LaVerendrye Provincial Park is best protected by management appropriate to a wilderness area. Within this zone of the Park, regulations will be implemented to protect the natural and historical resources. Such regulations include the prohibition of the use of motors, cans and bottles, and aircraft landings.

Resource uses permitted:

- trapping
- commercial bait fishing

Recreational uses permitted:

- canoeing/kayaking
- sailing
- cross-country skiing
- snowshoeing
- hiking/backpacking
- designated backcountry camping
- hunting
- scuba and skin diving
- heritage/historical appreciation
- nature appreciation
- picnicking
- sport fishing

Development permitted:

- designated backcountry campsites
- trails
- portages
- necessary signs for route idenfification
- minimal interpretive facilities

2.5.6 CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER SYSTEM

The Boundary Waters Voyageur Waterway has been nominated by the Ministry of Natural Resources as a Canadian Heritage River. This waterway is comprised of the Boundary Waters portion of Quetico Provincial Park, LaVerendrye Provincial Park in its entirety (except Nature Reserve zone 6), and the southern portion of Middle Falls Provincial Park.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System is a co-operative program, developed and run by the parks' administrations of territorial, provincial and the federal governments to give national recognition to the important rivers of Canada. The primary objective of the program is to ensure that rivers which are outstanding examples of Canada's natural heritage, which have played a significant role in Canadian history, or which offer outstanding opportunities for recreation, are managed in such a way that their distinctive heritage values are conserved, while their potential for future public use and enjoyment is enhanced.

The nomination of the Waterway was accepted by the Heritage Rivers Board in June 1986, and will be designated a Heritage River upon completion of this plan and a Management Plan for Middle Falls Provincial Park.

3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The resource management of LaVerendrye Provincial Park will emphasize the overall goal and objectives of the Park and concentrate on protection and heritage appreciation while providing for recreation and tourism. .

A park operating plan will be prepared in keeping with the direction provided in the management plan. The operating plan will comprise specific operational guidelines on how to carry out the management of the park's water, land, natural and cultural resources.

3.1 WATER MANAGEMENT

The management of the waters of LaVerendrye Provincial Park will be directed towards the maintenance of good water quality and sufficient water flow for fisheries habitat and recreational purposes.

Since the park follows the international boundary, the waters in the park are under the jurisdiction of the International Joint Commission of the United States and Canada. The Commission has jurisdiction over all matters involving the use, diversion, or obstruction of the boundary waters.

The water levels within LaVerendrye Provincial Park are presently not controlled except on the Fowl Lakes. The dam at the outlet of South Fowl Lake maintains water levels approximately one metre above natural lake levels. The present condition of the dam structure does not allow for the adjustment of water levels. Any improvement, alteration, or removal of the dam would require negotiation and agreement through the International Joint Commission. The intention in LaVerendrye is to maintain the existing water level on North and South Fowl Lakes, and to implement and negotiate any measures required to ensure this. There will be no water level controls elsewhere in the Park.

A monitoring program to provide data on the quality of Park waters will be established. The purpose of this program will be to ensure early detection of any deterioration in water quality so that corrective measures may be undertaken during the initial stages of an emerging problem. In addition, land-use planning exercises undertaken in areas adjacent to the Park will

consider the problem of maintaining water quality outside LaVerendrye's boundary but within its watershed. Finally, water quality along the boundary waters, an area of international water flow, is recognized as a potential problem. Here, the quality of LaVerendrye waters may be affected by factors outside the jurisdiction of both the Park and the Province. Continued co-operation with United States government agencies will be maintained in an attempt to ensure that LaVerendrye's objectives are not impaired.

The Ministry of Natural Resources will continue to promote good water quality in the LaVerendrye area, and will continue to work with the Ministry of the Environment and other government authorities and landowners to monitor water quality and respond to problem situations.

3.2 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Commercial forestry operations will not be permitted within LaVerendrye Provincial Park.

Fire will be controlled throughout the Park in a similar fashion to areas adjacent to the Park. Fire suppression techniques used will have as minimal effect as possible on the Park's environment. Such means of suppression as bulldozing, and water bombing with chemical additives will not be permitted except in critical situations.

Insect and disease control is permitted throughout LaVerendrye Park. Programs may be developed to control forest insects and diseases in the Park where these threaten significant heritage, aesthetic, or economic values. Where control is necessary, it will be directly applied to the specific targeted insect or disease so as to have minimal effects on other components of the Park's environment. Biological and physical controls will be used wherever feasible.

The cutting of dead trees by backcountry campers and day users, for the purpose of campfires, will be permitted. Excepting Saganaga and Gunflint Lakes, the cutting of dead trees for the purpose of heating and cooking by cottagers and residents will not be permitted. Property owners on Saganaga and Gunflint Lakes may cut dead trees for such purposes only under the authority of a Ministry of Natural Resources fuelwood permit.

Landscaping is permitted in the Access and Development zones only and prohibited in the remainder of the Park.

The harvesting of wild rice in the park is prohibited.

Based upon the policy direction provided by this plan, a Vegetation Management Plan will be prepared for LaVerendrye Provincial Park.

3.3 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife will continue to be managed in accordance with the policies and regulations of the area.

Hunting is allowed throughout the Park except in the Development zone and Nature Reserve zone 6.

Fur trapping will be permitted throughout the Park.

Wildlife viewing will be encouraged.

Nuisance animals will be controlled by M.N.R. in LaVerendrye Provincial Park except in the Nature Reserve zones. Such control will be exercised when it is essential to protect human health and safety or the health of animal species outside the Park. Where control is desirable, techniques will be used which have minimal effects on other component's of the Park's environment. Any hunting or trapping required in the control of nuisance animals will be carried out under the strict supervision of, or directly by, the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Based upon the policy direction provided by this plan, a Wildlife Management Plan will be prepared for LaVerendrye Provincial Park.

3.4 FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Fisheries management in LaVerendrye Provincial Park will be done in accordance with the Thunder Bay District Fisheries Management Plan. All fishing activity in LaVerendrye Park will adhere to the policies and regulations of Division 21 of the Ontario Fishing Regulations.

Sport fishing is permitted throughout the Park. The length of season for sport fishing in the Park is dependent on the Ontario Fishing Regulations (Division 21). Attempts will be made to negotiate a common length of season with the State of Minnesota for the waters within the Park.

Similarly, catch limits in the Park will fall under Division 21 of the Ontario Fishing Regulations and attempts will be made to negotiate common catch limits with the State of Minnesota.

Stocking is permitted throughout the Park.

Spawn collection is permitted within the Park.

The use of live bait for the purpose of fishing is permitted throughout the Park.

Commercial bait fishing is permitted throughout the Park.

Commercial food fish fishing is prohibited in all waters of LaVerendrye Park.

3.5 LAND MANAGEMENT

The management of land will be directed towards the maintenance of the natural landscape and waterway environment of the LaVerendrye Park area.

No privately owned land will be acquired for Park purposes. If, however, privately owned land is placed for sale on the market, the M.N.R. will consider purchase if acquisition of the property will enhance the achievement of Park objectives.

No land disposition will take place except in the Development zone. In the Development zone land may be leased for the purposes of commercial development.

The establishment of roads and utilities whether by private enterprise or by the M.N.R. will be directed by approved site plans. Such projects will be permitted in the Access and Development zones of the Park only, and progress will be closely monitored by the M.N.R.

No waste disposal sites will be permitted in the Park. Instead, garbage collection facilities will be located in the Development and Access zones, and waste removed to disposal sites outside of the Park. Efforts will be made to clean up unauthorized dump sites and to prevent this activity from recurring.

Commercial mineral exploration and extraction will not be permitted within LaVerendrye Provincial Park, except in Nature Reserve zone 6 where mineral exploration will be permitted under conditions set out in an exploratory licence of occupation.

Gravel extraction is permitted in the Access and Development zones only for the purposes of Park maintenance and/or development. There will be no removal of mineral aggregate from the Park. Gravel extraction in the access and development zones will only be permitted after an aggregate inventory has been undertaken, appropriate resources selected, and a rehabilitation plan prepared.

3.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The management of cultural resources will be directed to protection and heritage appreciation. The Ministry of Natural Resources will continue to work with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture in identifying archaeological and historical sites which should be protected along the waterway corridor.

LaVerendrye Provincial Park is an important archaeological area, as the boundary waters have been used since the last glacial recession. The sites which were located in the Park area in a 1975 survey represent every prehistoric culture except Paleo and Laurel culture; the late fur trade and lumber eras are represented as well. These sites span the time scale from 5000 B.C. to the recent past.

The fragility and importance of the numerous archaelogical sites along the waterway is complicated by the tendency for them to occur at locations frequented by modern-day travellers. Many of these sites are unique and are significant cultural resources which will be protected and managed for heritage appreciation and their scientific value.

Protection of these archaeological sites will be in part achieved by the establishment of designated campsites which will be segregated from the prehistoric and historic sites.

Where cultural resources occur on private land along the waterway corridor, the Ministry of Natural Resources will work with landowners to encourage and assist them in protecting and caring for the features on their property.

Periodic inspections of significant sites will occur with protective controls established as required. The removal of artifacts or destruction of historical features is illegal and will be enforced.

The inventory of archaeological sites, under the direction of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, will be encouraged and will be undertaken as funding permits. If deemed appropriate and necessary for the protection and preservation of cultural resources, such inventory can include excavations of archaeological sites. All such sites, upon completion of excavation, will be returned to their original condition, or will be developed for the purposes of interpreting the cultural resources inherent in the sites.

4. CLIENT SERVICES MANAGEMENT

Client services will be managed in accordance with the Park management plan. A Park operating plan will be prepared in keeping with the direction provided in the management plan. The operating plan will comprise specific operational guidelines on how to carry out client services management. The Ministry will encourage the involvement of the private sector in the provision of Park services.

4.1 VISITOR SERVICES

The primary objective of Visitor Services will be to orient Park visitors to the heritage and recreational attributes of the LaVerendrye Waterway. Self-use approaches, such as publications and display panels will be used to deliver Park information, resource interpretation, recreational skills and Park management messages.

4.1.1 PARK INFORMATION

A public information program for Park visitors will be established. A Park map will be produced to enable users to safely explore and use the Waterway. Information will be provided that will direct campers away from heavily-used areas. Low impact camping at dispersed sites will be encouraged. A leave no trace attitude will be promoted in order to minimize human impact on the Park environment.

Visitors will be advised to exercise caution regarding safety hazards. Information will be presented cautioning visitors regarding travel along the Waterway.

The importance of respecting other users will be stressed, particularly the rights of private property owners. Park literature will inform visitors about the commercial services and attractions that are available in the area to enhance their stay and generate local tourism expenditures.

4.1.2 INTERPRETATION

The main interpretive theme of LaVerendrye Provincial Park is that of its historical and cultural significance, which has included, Prehistoric Occupation, Early European Exploration, the Fur Trade, and the Railroad and and Logging Era.

In addition to LaVerendrye's historical theme the area offers the potential for interpretation of four minor themes which are; Geology and Landscape, Vegetation, Wildlife Viewing and International Relations.

The Geology and Landscape theme encompasses the following components:

- Saganaga Lake - roche moutonnes
- Saganaga Lake - "quartzeye" granitic rock
- Granite River System - erratic boulders
- Gunflint Lake - Gunflint Formation
- North Lake - Gunflint Formation
- Height of Land - Arctic/Atlantic watershed division
- Rove Lake - Rove Formation
- South Fowl Lake - glacial Lake O'Connor spillway
- Cascades - lake clays

The Vegetation theme can be highlighted by representative features in the following areas;

- Saganaga Lake - pine stands
- Gunflint and North Lakes - vegetation communities
- Long Portage - vegetation communities
- North Fowl Lake Access zone - pine stands
- East end of South Fowl Lake - marsh communities

Innovative ways of co-operative portrayal of these themes will be pursued with other agencies and business interests. Historic portages will receive priority as they provide physical evidence of man's past presence.

(Editor's Note: Upon completion of the ongoing Earth and Life Science Research (October 1986) the above geology and landscape and the vegetation themes will be reviewed and revised accordingly.)

4.1.3 RECREATIONAL SKILLS

Recreation information will acquaint Park visitors with the recreational attributes of the Park and the skills required for minimum impact Waterway travel. The Park map will serve as the basic information for this purpose. With improved skills, visitors will make better use and enjoyment of the Park, while minimizing their impact on the environment.

4.2 RECREATION MANAGEMENT

The management of recreation will be directed towards the provision of low density, backcountry travel along the Waterway. Camping on the Waterway, by boat or canoe is a traditional activity associated with fishing and canoe tripping. Access to the Waterway will be provided by existing Canadian access points on Mountain and North Fowl Lakes and at three new locations; Red Sucker Bay of Saganaga Lake, the east shore of North Lake and West of the Cascades on the Pigeon River. These new access locations will be developed as demand warrants.

The LaVerendrye waterway offers many outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation and has been a favourite for a variety of recreation activities since the turn of the century. At present, the majority of LaVerendrye waterway's cottagers and users are U.S. residents most likely due to better access on the American side and the popularity of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of Minnesota.

With the potential for increased access on the Canadian side and the Waterway's history of heavy usage, a number of regulations and controls on recreation activities are required. These will protect the park environment from inappropriate uses and overuse and will ensure visitors continue to enjoy high quality Waterway experiences.

To minimize campsite deterioration a party size limit of 10 individuals per designated backcountry campsite has been established for LaVerendrye Provincial Park (Nature Environment zone 1 and Wilderness zone). There will be no entry quotas established for the recreational use of the Waterway.

The use of non-burnable but disposable food and beverage containers (cans and bottles) will be prohibited in the Wilderness zone (Saganaga Falls to Magnetic

Lake). The possession of cans and bottles in all other areas of the Park will be permitted.

LaVerendrye Provincial Park will provide for day use throughout the Park. Present day use activities include boating, sport fishing, canoeing, snowmobiling, kayaking, hunting, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking (Pigeon River Hiking Trail) and wildlife viewing. These activities will be permitted to continue in most areas of the Park.

LaVerendrye Provincial Park presently provides facilities for primitive car camping activities at Mountain and North Fowl Lakes. (These two locations offer minimal facilities to the visitor). Car camping will be permitted to continue in these locations and may be established in the Access and Development zones only, if demand warrants.

Backcountry camping is permitted within LaVerendrye Provincial Park although interior travellers will be permitted to camp at designated campsites only. These will be identified by the presence of a sign and will be located in Natural Environment zone 1 and in the Wilderness zone only. Those campsites which are deemed unappropriate may be subject to campsite closure or campsite rehabilitation. From time to time the location of these designated campsites may be changed as to prevent overuse of the sites. Designated campsites on private land may be established by permission of land owners. Attempts will be made to seggregate modern-day campsites from sites of archeological significance to ensure the protection of these cultural resources.

The Pigeon River Hiking Trail will be realigned to be entirely within Park boundaries.

The recreational use of motorboats will be prohibited in the Wilderness zone (Saganaga Falls to Magnetic Lake). The use of motors will be permitted on all other lakes and rivers within the Park area with no limits on horsepower. No boat caches will be permitted in LaVerendrye Provincial Park.

Snowmobiles and other forms of motorized transportation will be prohibited in the Wilderness zone (Saganaga Falls to Magnetic Lake) and in Nature Reserve zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (except by permit use by trappers and M.N.R. staff for the purposes of enforcement and park maintenance). The use of snowmobiles and other forms of motorized transportation is permitted in all other areas of the Park.

The landing of aircraft will not be permitted in the Wilderness zone (Saganaga Falls to Magnetic Lake), but will be permitted on the remainder of the Park's lakes with an M.N.R. aircraft landing permit.

4.3 COMMERCIAL SERVICES

The development of commercial facilities will be permitted in the Development zone only. The Park operating plan will detail the location, type and extent of development permitted in this zone, and will provide specifications and guidelines for the tendering of detailed proposals for private development from private interests. The level of development will be limited by the ability of Saganaga Lake to sustain development without damaging water quality. Capacity calculations, developed by the M.N.R. for lake development planning, will be used to determine this.

Other commercial development will not be permitted on Park land. However, in many locations along the Waterway, private land adjacent to the Park has excellent potential for commercial development. Such development will be encouraged, provided that it does not jeopardize Park values and Park resources.

The operation of M.N.R. facilities in access zones by private interests will be permitted.

4.4 MARKETING

A marketing plan will be prepared for LaVerendrye Park.

The emphasis and direction of the plan will be:

(1) To encourage use and visitation to areas of the Park where use levels are low.

(2) To work co-operatively with commercial establishments in marketing the Park and their services. The major objective is to encourage Park visitation and the use of commercial facilities by Park visitors.

4.5 SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Scientific research by qualified individuals which contributes to knowledge of natural and cultural history and to environmental and recreational management will be encouraged in the Park. All research programs will require Ministry of Natural Resources approval and must also meet all other applicable provincial and federal government requirements.

5. DEVELOPMENT

Development in LaVerendrye Park will be concentrated in the Development zone. Additionally, less intensive development will take place in the Access zones. Within the remainder of the Park, development will be limited to back country campsites, protages, unmanned interpretive displays, and informational and directional signs.

In Access zone 4, no development will be permitted to allow motorboat access to the Pigeon River.

All development will be directed by approved site plans.

5.1 COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

The development of commercial facilities will be permitted only in the Development zone. Such facilities might include a lodge, cabins, campgrounds, and rental and retail sales facilities.

Proposals for commercial development will be solicited from all interested parties. Ground rules for such proposals will be identified in the operating plan, as will be the criteria to be used in the selection of the successful bidder. The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation will play an active role in developing the ground rules and criteria. The operator will be required to provide garbage collection and disposal facilities for Saganaga Lake.

5.2 M.N.R. FACILITIES

The Ministry of Natural Resources will develop campgrounds and related facilities in the access zones.

Facilities to accommodate Park Administration and Park Maintenance will be developed in the Development and Access zones. The administrative headquarters will be in the Development zone.

Facilities for fee collection and permit issuing will be located in the Development and Access zones. Such a facility will be required on Gunflint Lake, and will be located in the Natural Environment zone, if a suitable location on private land cannot be negotiated.

As patterns and levels of park use become better known, visitor orientation centres may be developed as required within the Development and Access zones.

All development will be carried out in accordance with approved site plans.

5.3 INTERIOR DEVELOPMENT

Development within the Natural Environment and Wilderness zones will be minimal.

Back country campsites will be developed in areas where existing campsites are insufficient to accommodate the recreational capacity of such areas. Some existing campsites may be closed, for rehabilitation or for the protection of endangered cultural resources (ie. archaeological sites). All campsites will be designated by a sign.

Interpretive, informational and directional signs will be installed at appropriate locations throughout the interior.

Portions of the Pigeon River hiking trail which are located outside of the Park boundary will be re-routed so as to include the entire trail within the Park. The development of other recreational trails, for non-mechanized uses, will be permitted.

No development will take place within the Nature Reserve zones, except necessary signs and trails.

6. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

6.1 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the management plan will involve planning and research, client services, and facility development. Implementation will be effected with funding from approved work plans, and any other funding sources that might be obtained.

6.1.1 PLANNING AND RESEARCH

A Park operating plan will be prepared. It will outline the operational details required to implement all Park programs.

A Park visitor services plan will be prepared in accordance with guidelines provided in this plan.

Research and inventory of the Park's natural, cultural, and recreational resources will be an ongoing activity. Archaeological inventory will be a priority.

User surveys will be undertaken to determine patterns and extent of use in the Park, and will provide the background required to develop strategies to better distribute use throughout the Park.

6.1.2 CLIENT SERVICES

The following use controls will be implemented immediately: party size limit, motor restrictions (Wilderness zone only) and boat caching.

Upon completion of a program to designate interior campsites, the designated site restriction will be implemented.

A Park map and informational package will be produced.

Upon completion of development of facilities for fee collection and permit issuing, camping and day use fees will be charged.

Maintenance of interior campsites and portages will be undertaken. The level of maintenance will be determined by the amount of available funding.

6.1.3 DEVELOPMENT

Development will be phased, in accordance with the level of available funding and the demand by Park users for development.

The following development by the Ministry of Natural Resources will be initiated.

- Designation of interior campsites.
- Road development to Development and Access zones, and upgrading of existing access roads.
- Re-alignment of Pigeon River Hiking Trail.
- Development of new interior campsites.
- Construction of campgrounds in Access zones.
- Construction of facilities for fee collection and permit issuing, and for Park administration and maintenance.

Steps will be taken to initiate commercial development within the Development zone as soon as feasible.

6.2 PLAN REVIEW

The LaVerendrye Provincial Park Management Plan will be reviewed on an ongoing basis throughout its 20 year lifespan. The review will be conducted in the following manner:

- review of the process leading to the initial management plan;
- update of background information and data about the Park resources and use;
- review the status of implementation of the approved management plan and provincial policies.
- identify O.M.N.R., other agencies and public issues of concern;
- prepare "issues and suggested solutions" document for public review;
- present "issues and suggested solutions" document to public for their review and comment;
- review proposed revisions recommended by the public;
- prepare and receive approval for plan amendment.

Figure 1
LaVerendrye
Boundary and Z

2 1 0 2 4 6 km

North

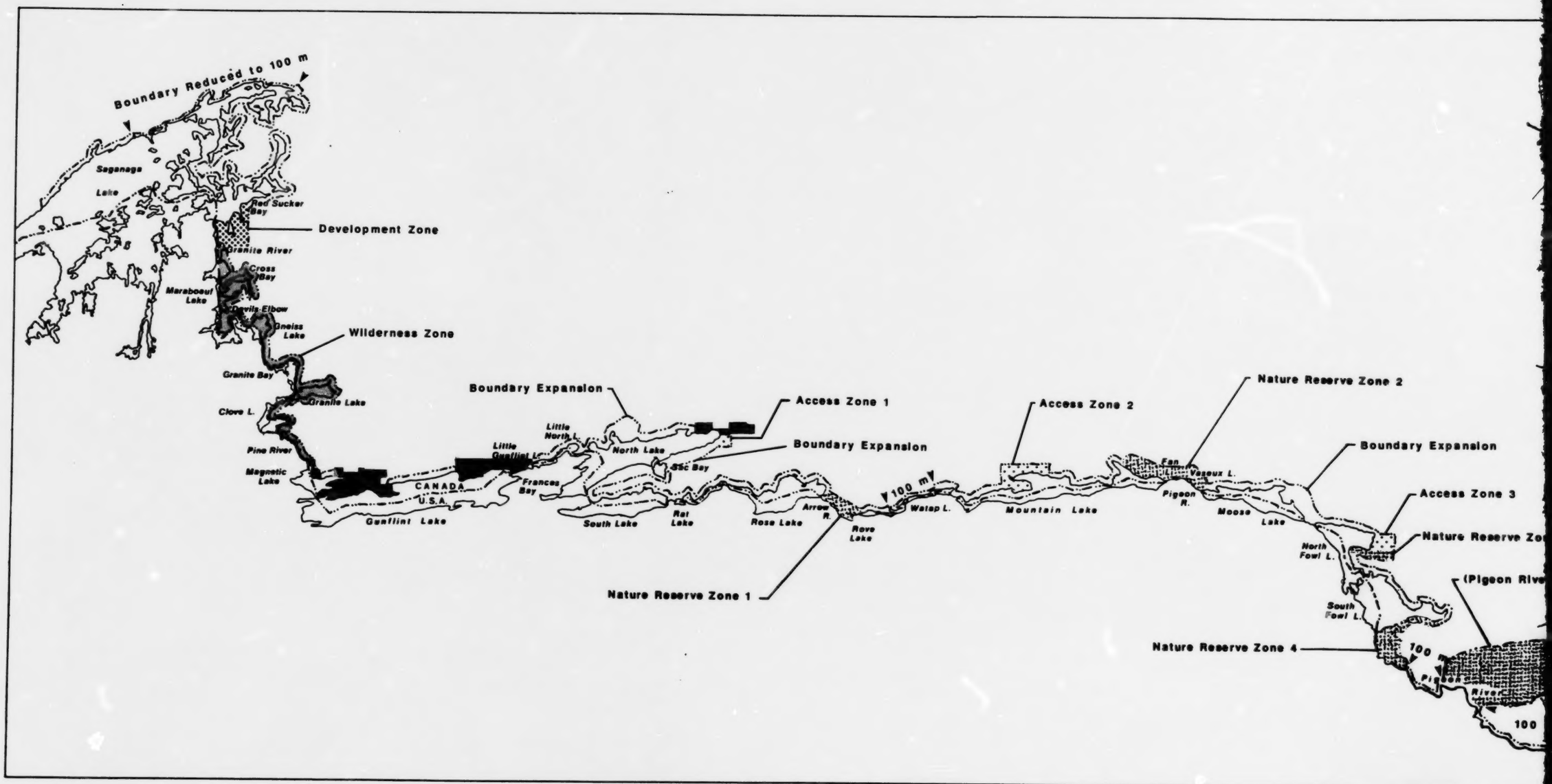
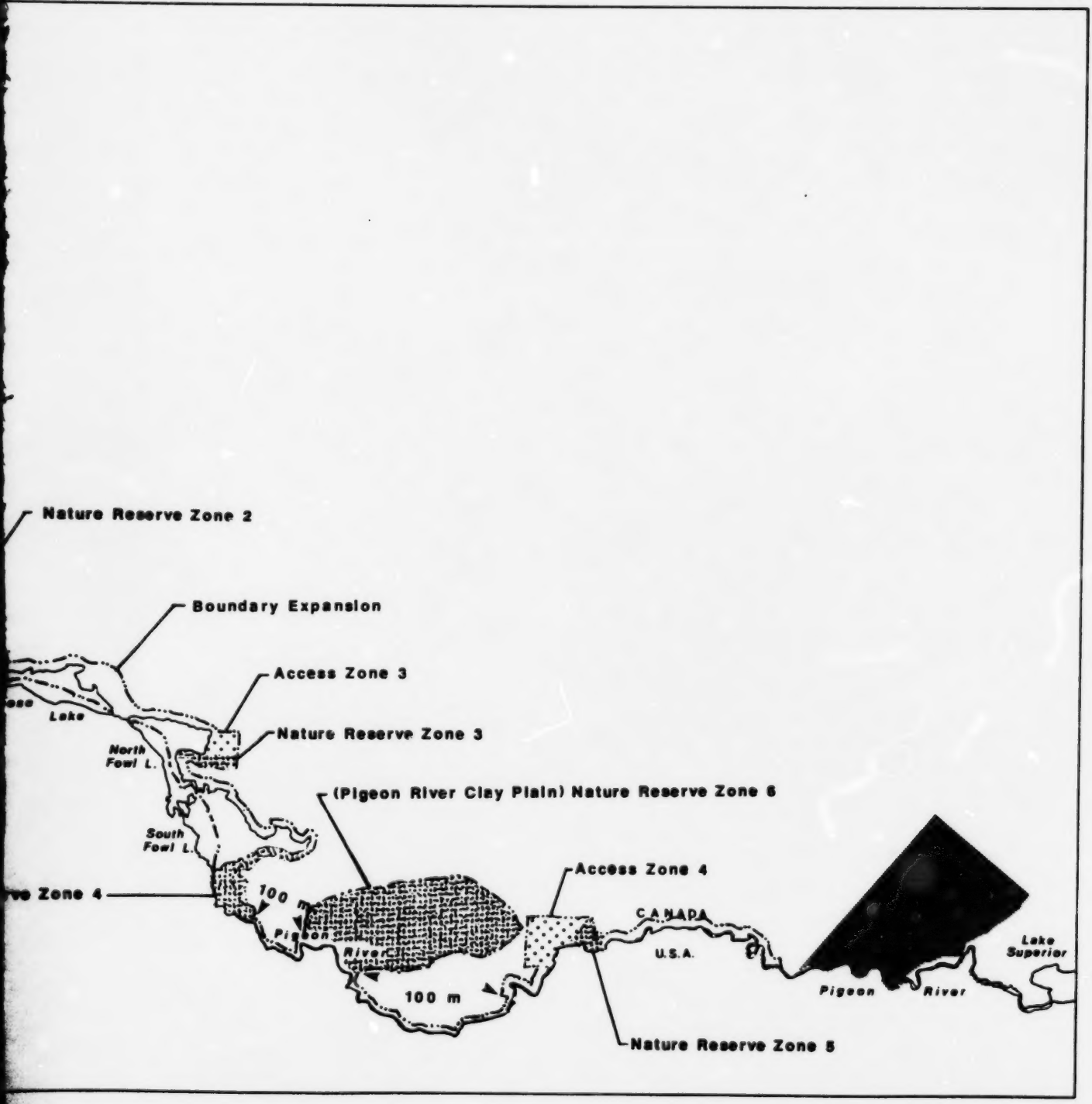


Figure 1

LaVerendrye Boundary and Zoning

- Park Boundary
- Natural Environment Zone
- Nature Reserve Zones 1-6
- Development Zone
- Patented Land (3 hectares +)
- Access Zone
- Wilderness Zone

Note: Patented land under 3 hectares not shown on map but is excluded from Park area.



LaVerendrye Provincial Park

Comment Sheet - Preliminary Management Plan

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail to:

District Manager
435 James Street S.,
Thunder Bay,
Ontario.
P7C 5G6

LAVERENDRYE PROVINCIAL PARK PLANNING SCHEDULE